

House Resolution 820

By: Representative Peake of the 137th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating a House Study Committee on City and County Consolidation; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, cities and counties in the State of Georgia are considering joining forces in
4 order to consolidate government services that may overlap ; and

5 WHEREAS, notable city-county consolidations in Georgia include Athens-Clarke County,
6 Augusta-Richmond County, and Columbus-Muscogee County; and

7 WHEREAS, proponents of consolidation argue that inefficiency results from the duplication
8 of services at city and county levels and urge that consolidation is necessary to reduce
9 spending; and

10 WHEREAS, on the other hand, opponents of city-county consolidation claim that a merger
11 of the governing entities will result in increased spending by government by combining the
12 personnel systems of two entities into one; and

13 WHEREAS, sufficient data in the area of whether city-county consolidation is effective is
14 lacking and study is needed to determine the advantages and disadvantages of such mergers;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study is required to compare the short-term and long-term
17 costs of unifying two government entities so that areas considering consolidation may be
18 well informed in their decision-making process; and

19 WHEREAS, analysis of the city-county consolidations in Georgia and elsewhere would be
20 beneficial in determining which methods are successful and which methods have not had
21 positive outcomes; and

22 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the issues and facts related to consolidating cities and
23 counties in Georgia, including the advantages and disadvantages of consolidation and
24 whether merging governments and services is cost efficient, is needed to allow Georgia
25 citizens and government officials to make informed choices.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 there is created the House Study Committee on City and County Consolidation to be
28 composed of five members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
29 who shall designate one member as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of
30 the committee.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
32 needs, issues, and problems as described above and recommend any actions or legislation
33 that the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may conduct such
34 meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable
35 it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the
36 objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee shall receive the
37 allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
38 The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the
39 committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The funds
40 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
41 appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of
42 its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
43 report shall be made on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished
44 on December 31, 2009.